

REMARKS

This Amendment is submitted along with a Request For Continued Examination (RCE) Transmittal. Claims 1 and 10 have been amended herein. Claims 1-14 remain pending. Reconsideration and allowance of all claims 1-14 are respectfully requested.

In response to an office action designated as final, dated October 6, 2003, Applicants submitted a Request for Reconsideration by facsimile transmission on December 4, 2003. The Examiner's Advisory Action responding to the Request for Reconsideration is dated February 26, 2004. In remarks contained in the Advisory Action, and during a telephone discussion with Applicants' attorney, the Examiner acknowledged the differences between the present invention and the prior art as outlined in the Remarks of the aforementioned Request For Reconsideration. However, the Examiner expressed an opinion that the independent claims of the application required further clarification regarding the meaning of the phrase "fixed minimum reliable move amount" and how the fixed minimum reliable move amount related to other recitations in the claims. Accordingly, claims 1 and 10 have been amended to further clarify these features of Applicants' invention. In conjunction with these amendments to claims 1 and 10, Applicants reiterate the Remarks contained in the Request For Reconsideration submitted previously, and the differences between the present invention and the prior art as stated therein. Applicants submit that claims 1-14 are now allowable over the prior art, and consideration and allowance are respectfully requested.

A Petition For Extension Of Time has been submitted with this Amendment and the Request For Continued Examination. It is noted that the Applicants' Request For Reconsideration was submitted within the first two months following the date of the final office action. Accordingly, it is believed that the extension of time should be calculated from the date of

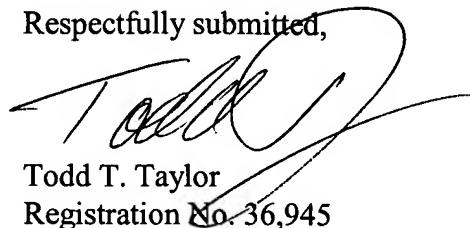
the advisory action, February 26, 2004. While the Examiner indicated on the advisory action that the period for reply expired three months from the mailing date of the final rejection, during conversation with the Examiner, the Examiner did acknowledge that if in fact the dates were as indicated the period for reply should expire on the mailing date of the advisory action or the date set forth in the final rejection, whichever is later. Accordingly, Applicants are of the belief that only a one-month extension is required at this time. However, should a further extension be required, Applicants hereby conditionally petition therefor and authorizes that any charges necessary be made to Deposit Account No. 20-0095, TAYLOR & AUST, P.C.

For the foregoing reasons, Applicants submit that no combination of the cited references teaches, discloses or suggests the subject matter of the amended claims. The pending claims are therefore in condition for allowance, and Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of all rejections and allowance of the claims.

In the event Applicants have overlooked the need for an extension of time, an additional extension of time, payment of fee, or additional payment of fee, Applicants hereby conditionally petitions therefor and authorizes that any charges be made to Deposit Account No. 20-0095, TAYLOR & AUST, P.C.

Should any question concerning any of the foregoing arise, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (260) 897-3400.

Respectfully submitted,



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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on: March 19, 2004.

Todd T. Taylor, Reg. No. 36,945

Name of Registered Representative

  
Signature

March 19, 2004

Date